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Blithe Spirit

Noel Coward

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Noel Coward's

Blithe Spirit

Directed by
Martin Friedman

March 19, 20,
26, 27 at 8 p.m.
March 28 at 2 p.m.

Kulas
Auditorium



Presented by
John Carroll University
Dept. of Communications
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John Carroll University

Department of Communications

Proudly Presents

Blithe Spirit

An Improbable Farce in Three Acts

by

NOEL COWARD

Directed by

Martin Friedman

March 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 1999

Kulas Auditorium

**Produced by permission from
Samuel French, Inc.**

**Dedicated with love and respect
to the memory of**

KATHY DOLAN

On October 4, 1998 former JCU Communications Department secretary Kathy Dolan succumbed to a 14-month fight against breast cancer. She was a close friend and admired colleague to many.

Before her death, Kathy, and her husband Fred, suggested the creation of a memorial scholarship fund in Kathy's honor.

The Communications Department is honored to pay tribute to Kathy in such a fitting manner. Gifts to the Kathryn Dolan Communications Department Scholarship Fund may be sent to the Communications Department in the O'Malley Center.

Blithe Spirit

Cast (In order of appearance)

Edith.....	Candace Freed
Ruth	Moria Nagy
Charles.....	Joel Nunley
Dr. Bradman.....	Timothy Colligan
Mrs. Bradman.....	Stacy McKay
Madame Arcati.....	Elizabeth R. Wood
Elvira.....	Breianne Knight

The action takes place in the living room of Charles Condomine's house.
Kent, England. May, 1941.

Synopsis of Scenes

Act I

Scene 1:	Before dinner on an early summer evening.
Scene 2:	After dinner.

INTERMISSION

Act II

Scene 1:	The next morning.
Scene 2:	Late the following afternoon.
Scene 3:	Early evening. A few days later.

INTERMISSION

Act III

Scene 1:	After dinner. A few days later.
Scene 2:	Several hours later.

Blithe Spirit

Production Staff

Director.....	Martin Friedman*
Sets & Lights Designed by	Keith Nagy*
Costumes Designed by.....	Laura Dana
Production Stage Manager.....	Bradford McCall
Master Electrician.....	Julie Ziegler
Technical Director.....	Michael Benson
Make-up and Wig Designer.....	Meredith Rutledge
Public Relations Director.....	Renee Miller
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Bonnie Brunelle
Light Board Operator.....	Julie Ziegler
Sound Board Operator.....	Brandon Monsman
Recording Engineer.....	Jeffrey Norris*
House Manager.....	Steve Udydz*
Assistant Director.....	Matt Hess
Set Crew.....	CO 275 Technical Theatre
Lighting Crew.....	Beth Wood*, James Kolar, Amanda Slater, M.O. Violante, M. Gantalamesa
Ticket Sales/Public Relations.....	Brian Bossick, Christopher Caffarel
Property Run.....	Maria Colaiaanni, Colleen Hlywa, Polly Carran
Costume Run.....	Allison Borkowski, Joey Humphries

* Denotes member of Alpha Psi Omega

Stacy McKay (Mrs. Violet Bradman) began act in high school in Greenville, Pa. Some of Ms. McKay's favorite roles include Cynthia in **Mouse on Mars**, Sister Berthe in the **Sound of Music**, Olive in Neil Simon's female version of **The Odd Couple**, and Allison Reynolds in JCU's Little Theatre production of **Live At Eleven**. Ms. McKay, a JCU sophomore, plans to graduate with a Spanish major and a minor in communications and business. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support.

Breianne Knight (Elvira) has been brought to you today by the letter P and by the number twelve. Ms. Knight was going to tell you about all the acting awards she's won, but they were destroyed in a freak lawnmower accident. She is happy to finally be on Kulas Stage rather than behind it and wishes to thank all the crew people and her best friend Beef.

WHO'S WHO - Production Staff

Martin Friedman (Director). Dr. Friedman has been an adjunct instructor of Communications and Theatre at John Carroll University since 1990 and also is currently the Artistic Director of Lakeland Community College's theatre program. His most recent directing credits include **Brighton Beach Memoirs** (Lakeland Theatre), **Merrily We Roll Along** (JCU), **Crimes of the Heart** (JCU), **Prelude to a Kiss** (JCU), and **The Good Times Are Killing Me** (Cuyahoga Community College). Dr. Friedman holds a B.S. degree in Theatre Education from Emerson College (Boston), an M.A. and Ph.D. in theatre from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and a certificate in not-for-profit management from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Non-Profit Organizations. He has taught theatre and communications at George Mason University, the University of Michigan, Cuyahoga Community College, The University of Akron and Ursuline College. As a communications consultant, Dr. Friedman has worked with law firms and businesses on how to improve communications with employees and the public. Most recently, Friedman has worked on diversity training for the Anti-Defamation League, Ford Motor Company/United Auto Workers, the Cleveland Public Schools, and Perry High School.

Keith Nagy (Set and Lighting Designer). Mr. Nagy is an assistant professor of communications at John Carroll University and previously served as Director of Production at Cleveland Opera for 16 years. Mr. Nagy has designed lights and sets for many JCU productions including **Twelfth Night**, **Crimes of the Heart**, **Merrily We Roll Along**, **Buried Child** and **Lend Me A Tenor**. At Lakeland Theatre Mr. Nagy was the set designer for **Brighton Beach Memoirs** and the lighting designer for **I DO! I DO!**. He also was a resident designer for Cleveland Opera and has designed sets and lights for such Cleveland Opera favorites as **The Turk in Italy**, **Hansel and Gretel**, **Così fan Tutte**, **Rigoletto**, **La Traviata**, and **Carmen**. His design work has included opera, ballet, movies, live theatre and industrial shows. He has designed for the Seattle Opera, Opera Carolina, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Michigan Opera Theatre,

WHO'S WHO - CAST

***Elizabeth R. Wood** (Madame Arcati), a senior communications major, is making her seventh and final appearance on the John Carroll University stage. Her favorite previous roles at JCU include Lenny in **Crimes of the Heart**, Mary in **Merrily We Roll Along** and Jesse in **'night Mother**. After graduation Ms. Wood plans to "hang out" in Cleveland for a year ("I need a job! Hire Me!") and then proceed to graduate school to earn her Master of Fine Arts in acting. A dramatic actress at heart, Ms. Wood is excited to be giving character acting a try. She would like to thank Keith, Nancy, Karen and, of course, Martin for everything they have taught her and all their support. Ms. Wood would like to dedicate her final performance at JCU to her fabulous mother and all-around great guy, Chuckie.

Candace Freed (Edith) is delighted to make her first appearance on the JCU stage. A sophomore and Cleveland native, Ms. Freed has previously been seen in **42nd Street** and **Anything Goes**. Ms. Freed has enjoyed roles including Miss Preen in **The Man Who Came To Dinner** and Noah's wife in the one-act comedy **Unhappily Ever After**. Ms. Freed sends her love to her parents, brother and grandmother who are overjoyed that she found an outlet to vent her nervous energy. She also wishes to thank **THE BEST ROOMIE IN THE WORLD** for helping her learn her cockney accent, Lindsay for making the "stairs to nowhere", and for Bill for being "polite". Lastly -- "To Poppa. I'm sorry you missed it, but I know you're watching. I love you."

Moria Nagy (Ruth Condomine) most recently played the feisty Italian Maria in **Lend Me A Tenor** and the Narrator in the comedic one-act **The Original Last Wish Baby**. Ms. Nagy is a freshman biology major and hopes someday to become a veterinarian. Ms. Nagy hails from Mendocino, California.

Joel S. Nunley (Charles Condomine) most recently appeared as Sir Lount in The Great Lakes Theatre Festival's production of **Richard III**. Mr. Nunley has also performed at the Porthouse Theatre (Starveling/Moonshine in **Midsummer Night's Dream** and Roger Sherman in **1776**) and at the Cleveland Playhouse's production of **Yerma**. Mr. Nunley's favorite roles are Pharaoh in **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** and Stanley in **Smoke on the Mountain** (for which he received a Best Supporting Actor of the Year award), both for New York's Dodger Productions. Also as a playwright, Mr. Nunley has written four full-length plays, one of which toured nationally for two seasons. He sends much love to Kimberly, Dylan, Dakota and Caleb

Timothy Colligan (Dr. George Bradman), a freshman, has been acting for the past five years. Mr. Colligan has been in **Strange Boarders**, **You Can't Take It With You**, **Jesus Christ Superstar**, **Guys and Dolls** and **Grease**. Mr. Colligan most recently appeared in JCU's **Live at Eleven**. His other interests include writing, drawing, and Tae Kwon Do.

* ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega is the national honorary theatre fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theatre throughout the United States. The Mu Theta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega is chartered at John Carroll University, and its members serve the local communities in their production of theatre. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theatre productions.

Special Thanks

The director, designers, cast and crew of *Blithe Spirit* would like to thank the following people and organizations for their support:

Dr. Jackie Schmidt
Sandra B. Livingston
Big Fun (Coventry, Cleveland Heights)

Denise Christescu
Cleveland Opera

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Who else but Noel Coward — a master of dry satire — would write a comedy about death to entertain war-torn England during World War II.

Of course he pulled it off brilliantly.

Blithe Spirit was an astonishing success playing for close to 2,000 performances after its opening on July 2, 1941 in London. Coward wrote this wonderfully witty and brittle play in just eight days. It opened soon after Coward wrapped up production of "***In Which We Serve***", a patriotic docu-drama film that he wrote, co-directed (with David Lean) and starred in.

With his keen sense of society, Coward knew instinctively that audiences would laugh at the pompous Charles as he got caught up in a comedy of manners and in the verbal crossfire of his present wife and the ghost of his first wife.

Coward was a playwright of the ages. He knew the dark and cynical side of people to the core. That's why his lines resonate as well in today's scandal-weary America as in World War II era England. Just consider a comment Charles makes early in Act I to his wife Ruth:

"It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit."

Connecticut Opera and Opera de Puerto Rico. Mr. Nagy's work in the theatre has been seen at Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Karamu, Porthouse Theatre and Berea Summer Theatre. He was 'head charge artist' for the movie **Paradise** and scenic artist for the movies **Double Dragon** and **The Babe**. Mr. Nagy is a member of United Scenic Artists local #829 and is the former Chairman for the United States Institute of Theatre Technologists/Ohio Valley (U.S.I.T.T.). Mr. Nagy earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California and his Master of Fine Arts degree in Production Design from Ohio University.

Laura M. Dana (Costume Design) is a graduating senior at Kent State University in Costume Design. Ms. Dana has designed **Life is a Dream**, **Seascape** and **Darker Face of the Earth** and works regularly at Porthouse Theatre.

Bradford McCall (Production Stage Manager), the "award-winning stage manager of a Tinky-Winky Honorary Medal" is also a pretty nice guy. **Blithe Spirit** is his second attempt at production stage manager at JCU. His first production was **Lend Me A Tenor**. Mr. McCall congratulates Madame Arcati (Beth Wood) for four great years here. "JCU's theatre community and audience will miss you! Good Luck!"

Bonnie Brunelle (Assistant Stage Manager/Daphne) has been involved in theatre since she was in junior high school. Ms. Brunelle has been seen in both community theatre and school theatre productions of **West Side Story**, **The Secret Garden** and **Bye, Bye Birdie** among others. Ms. Brunelle has always aspired to work backstage in the theatre and her dream has come true with her work as assistant stage manager for **Blithe Spirit** and last fall's **Lend Me Tenor**. Ms. Brunelle looks forward to working with the actors and crew of this show and many more productions in the future.

Julie Zeigler (Master Electrician/ Light Board Operator) "has brightened Kulas in so many ways; one of which being her award winning sock collection." Ms. Zeigler has found it very rewarding being Master Electrician for **Blithe Spirit**, but is disappointed that no one will call her "master". Ms. Zeigler would like to thank her mother, her roommate Alissa, and Jason for making her a very cool balloon animal giraffe.

Renee Miller (Public Relations Director) is a JCU senior. Ms. Miller has planned and implemented the public relations programs used to promote **Blithe Spirit**. This is the first time she has been involved in theatre at JCU.

Brandon Monsman(Sound Run) really takes sound seriously. Mr. Monsman suggests that "should you experience any audio problems, please forward any complaints to box #1394). Mr. Monsman wishes to shout out a hearty hi-ho-silver to his faithful assistant Fanka, for his hours of hard work and dedication to the cause.

***Stephen Udyecz** (House Manager) is a JCU senior. Mr. Udyecz is also enrolled in the witness protection program, so you haven't seen him.



Blithe Spirit also is a great piece for actors. It is not easy but it is rewarding. Our actors in this production have mastered this tough verbal comedy with wit, grace and perseverance.

It may seem that **Blithe Spirit** is an odd choice to dedicate to Kathy Dolan, the former longtime secretary in JCU's Communication's Department who died last year. But I think Kathy would appreciate it. She was a wise, warm and joyful woman who knew that humor can help lessen our pain.

Enjoy!

Martin Edward Friedman

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